

County of Los Angeles

Sheriff's Department Headquarters 4700 Ramona Boulevard Monterey Park, California 91754–2169



July 18, 2007

The Honorable Board of Supervisors County of Los Angeles 383 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration Los Angeles, California 90012

Dear Supervisors:

I would like to provide your Board with an update as to the Sheriff's Department's continued success in recruiting, hiring, and graduating new deputy sheriffs and custody assistants.

The Department met its goal of hiring 1,000 deputy sheriffs last year. This year's goal has been raised to hiring 1,300 deputy sheriffs. Since January 2007, the Department has tested more than 5,000 applicants and hired 767 deputy sheriffs through June, which indicates that the Department is on track to meet this year's goal.

The Department continues to train five concurrent academy classes with more than 500 recruits at the academies located at the STARS Center in Whittier, College of the Canyons in the Santa Clarita Valley and in the Antelope Valley.

Currently, four of the five academy classes are being held at the STARS Center, which also serves as a training facility for other Departmental training (i.e. patrol school, supervisory school, and academies for security assistant, security officer, and custody assistant). The Department's goal is to continue with four academy classes at STARS Center and one class up north. However, with this fourth class, STARS Center is becoming overcrowded and is struggling with parking issues, available classrooms, and other basic training requirements.

Future hiring requirements will demand the need for five concurrent academy classes to continue in the foreseeable future. Thus, in order to meet the Department's training requirements and ease the current burden on the STARS Center, the Department is in need of another, centrally located, academy. The Chief Executive Officer and Sheriff will be reporting to your Board on the status of establishing an academy presence at the Eugene C. Biscailuz Center in East Los Angeles.

Custody assistant recruiting, testing, and hiring remain a high priority for the Department. Since January 2007, there has been 90 custody assistants hired. In addition to classes held at the STARS Center, custody assistant academy classes are also being held at the College of the Canyons and Antelope Valley College. Recently, the Department has seen a substantial increase in custody assistant applications. Prior to the end of the school year, the Department partnered with many local school districts, including the Los Angeles Unified School District, which provided a unique job opportunity for graduating high school seniors. As a result, we expect to substantially increase custody assistant hiring in the next several months.

I want to thank each of you for your continued support and efforts to help this Department succeed and maintain the valued reputation we have as a leading law enforcement agency. Your Board will continue to be kept apprised of our efforts to recruit and train new deputy sheriffs and custody assistants.

Should you have any questions, please have your staff contact me or Assistant Sheriff Paul K. Tanaka at (323) 526-5065, or Division Director Victor Rampulla at (323) 526-5357.

Sincerely,

LEROY D. BACA

SHERIFF